

Mt. Vernon Arsenal  
Mt. Vernon, Alabama

HABS No. ALA-105

HABS  
ALA

44-1000

1-

~~RECORDS~~  
WRITTEN HISTORIC AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
DISTRICT NO. 16

ADDITIONAL  
COPY

Historic American Buildings Survey  
E. Walter Burkhardt, District Officer  
Auburn, Alabama

MT. VERNON ARSENAL  
Mt. Vernon, Mobile County, Alabama.

49- MOUV

1 -

Ownership:

Present Owner: State of Alabama.  
Previous Owner: United States War Department.  
Date of Erection: 1830-1840  
1828 - 1835.

Architect: Unknown.

Builder: United States War Department.

Present Condition: Good.

Number of Stories: Some one, two and three stories.

Materials of Construction: Grounds enclosed by high brick wall, forty acres, practically all buildings original, few changes, some are of brick, some are of frame. All have important architectural features.

Other Existing Records:

See: HISTORY OF ALABAMA.  
By Owen.

See: "IMPRINTS OF SOUTH'S HISTORIC PAST"  
By Varian Feare, (Mrs. E. Walter Burkhardt)  
Birmingham News, July 22, 1934.

Source of Material: History of Alabama, by Owens.

Compiled by: Katherine Floyd, Auburn, Ala.

Approved: E. Walter Burkhardt, District Officer, HABS

Additional Data: Mt. Vernon Cantonement, Arsenal and Barracks.

An American cantonement near the junction of the Alabama and Tombigbee Rivers; on the high ground two miles west of Fort Stoddart. In the latter part of 1810, a revolt was attempted on the part of the "Bigbee" settlers against Spanish Rule. A detachment of U. S. Troops with Colonel Thomas H. Cushing in command was stationed for a time in Mobile to prevent their attack upon that place. After the danger had passed, Colonel Cushing marched to Fort Stoddart, and thence to Mt. Vernon Springs where a cantonement was established in December 1811. Fort Stoddart seemed to be abandoned about that time and Mt. Vernon grew more and more in military importance. During the Creek war it was the headquarters for General Claiborne with his forces and also rendezvous for all troops in the southern part of the territory during the campaigns against the Creeks.

By Act of Congress approved May 24, 1828 the building of an Arsenal at this point was authorized. It was regularly garrisoned, although with a small force only. It was of minor importance until the outbreak of the War of 1861. In January 1861, the Governor caused the post to be occupied by Alabama troops.

In 1873, under orders of Secretary of War the arsenal was converted into barracks, for occupation of U. S. Troops. Its designation was changed to that of Mt. Vernon Barracks. It was occupied by U. S. Troops as late as 1890.

Here about 700 Apache Indians were held prisoners, not with-in the inclosure but outside the walls in log cabins. Among them was their leader, the famous Chief Geronimo, a picturesque figure.

By Act of Congress approved March 1, 1895 the Mt. Vernon Barracks together with all buildings and improvements were conveyed to the State of Alabama by deed executed by Daniel S. Lamont Secretary of War, March 13, 1895 to be used for public purposes.

On December 11, 1900, the property was set apart by the Legislature for the use of the insane of the State, under the name of Mt. Vernon Hospital, now used for ~~black~~ ~~black~~ black, known as Bryce Hospital and Mt. Vernon Hospital.

Addendum to:  
Mount Vernon Arsenal (Mount Vernon Barracks)  
Mount Vernon  
Mobile County  
Alabama  
(written report first transmitted)

HABS No. AL-105

HABS  
ALA  
HQ-MOBY,  
1-

PHOTOCOPY

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C.